to become commercially viable, propensity to absorb investment and ability to serve such investment.

Power Fund

2305. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Power proposes to set up a Power Fund on the line of Resurgent India Bonds and India Millennium Deposits, both successful and popular with the non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, whether proposal has complete backing of Power Finance Corporation which is trying to get major financial institutions involved with project; and

(c) if so, to what extent it has succeeded in mooting the Indian Power Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Under 16th Electric Power Survey, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has projected a requirement of capacity addition of around 1,07,000 MW by 2012 AD. This along with associated Transmission & Distribution (T&D) system is estimated to require an investment of around Rs. 8,00,000 crores. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has mooted a concept of India Power Fund (IPF) to meet the debt and equity requirements for this purpose. The proposal is at present at conceptual stage.

Techno-Economic clearance to Naphtha based Liquid Fuel Power Projects at Nanjangud and Mandya

2306. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has sought Centre's Techno-Economic clearance for the Naphtha-based Liquid Fuel Power Projects at Nanjangud and Mandya; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and by when, the clearance given to each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Karnataka had recommended the 96.7 MW Nanjangud Combined Cycle Power Project (CCPP) of M/s. IPS Power Company and 164.37 MW Mandya CCPP of M/s. Mandya Power Partners Private Ltd., to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for techno-economic clearance (TEC). The projects are based on Naphtha as the fuel. The projects could not be accorded TEC, mainly, because they envisage use of Cauvery water, and the Central Water Commission did not clear the schemes as Inter-State aspects were pending before the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for these schemes were, therefore, returned by CEA. These proposals could be considered for TEC by CEA after the necessary inputs such as water availability, completed capital cost and views of the Government of Karnataka on the use of Naphtha as the fuel are tied up.

Rural Electrification Programme

2307. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages proposed to be electrified during the current budget year, State-wise;

(b) the cost of the project; and

(c) by when all the villages are proposed to be covered under Rural Electrification Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) State-wise details of villages proposed to be electrified during the current budget year are given in the Statement enclosed (See below). Besides, Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources have also planned to electrify 500 remote villages during the current financial year.

(b) According to Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the average cost of electrification of a village works out to Rs. 6 lakhs in plain areas and Rs. 15 lakhs in Special Category States. The average cost of